Serial No.: 10/683,713
Group Art Unit: 2823

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-10 are allowed. Claim 5 has been amended to add a space between "wherein" and "forming". Claim 9 has been amended to add a colon after "wherein" instead of a semicolon. Claim 10 has been amended by deleting the extra period at the end of the claim. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 11-12 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Comard (US 6,706,583, hereinafter "Comard") in view of Ohnishi et al. (US 6,674,149, hereinafter "Ohnishi") of record.

With reference to claims 11, 12, 16, and 17, these claims have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, it is submitted that these rejections are moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 1-10 at an early date is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0374 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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